



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

Town Council Meeting: 10 March 2014

Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. Present were Councilmembers Flynn, Schulp, Wegner, and Welch. Also present were Town Manager Swearingen, a small number of Town residents and Randy Auerbach from the Bugle.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as distributed without objection.

Presentations by Residents: David Rubenstein requested that the Town Council approve a proclamation for Elmer Sichert, recognizing his long-term volunteer service at the MARC train station in Garrett Park. There being no proclamation presented for the Council to consider Mr. Rubenstein stated that he would write a proclamation and Mayor Benjamin agreed to solicit consideration for approval of the Council members by e-mail.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 10, 2014 regular meeting were approved without objection. The minutes of the February 25, 2014 Budget Work Session were approved without objection.

Action: - Introduction of Ordinance 2014-2, the 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Mayor Benjamin and Town Manager Swearingen presented the Budgets as developed at the Council Work Session. . Mayor Benjamin noted that two areas of revenue may have been over-estimated in the developed budget and that the Council may wish to consider adjustments. He stated that Real Property Tax Collections is likely \$20,000 too high and suggested that the Council consider reducing the estimated Property Tax Revenue from \$464,500 to \$444,500.

Mayor Benjamin also suggested that Local Income Tax collections appear to be \$20,000 too high. He speculated that some residents of Garrett Park may not be putting the name of the Town in the special box for tax sharing on their tax returns, resulting in the town not receiving the revenue from those returns. Mayor Benjamin recommended that the Council reduce the Local Income Tax line item from \$310,000 to \$290,000.

The Council then discussed where to remove \$40,000 in expenses to balance the loss of \$40,000 in revenue. The result of that discussion were the following changes to the 2015 Budget to be introduced:

Reduction in Expenditures of \$20,000:

Reduced Personnel/Benefits \$3,000
Reduced Town Administration/Elected and Appointed Officials \$500
Reduced Town Administration/Professional Fees \$2,000
Reduced Infrastructure and Equipment/Penn Place \$10,000
Reduced Infrastructure and Equipment/Trees and Parks \$3,000
Reduced Infrastructure/Equipment M&R \$1,500

Reduction in the Capital Program of \$20,000:

Reduced Streets and Roads/Streets and Curbs \$5,000
Reduced Committee/Parks and Open Spaces \$5,000
Reduced Other \$10,000

The total reduction in Expenditures is \$40,000. The total Operating Revenues to be introduced become \$1,142,675, the total Operating Expenditures become \$942,368, the Capital Program becomes \$181,307 and the Transfer to Reserves remains \$19,000.

The Council also discussed the wording of the resolution introducing Ordinance 2014-2.

Councilmember Schulp MOVED approval of the introduction of Ordinance 2014-2 as adjusted by the Council, Councilmember Wegner SECONDED and it was approved unanimously. The approved resolution is attached.

The Town Manager's Report.

- Monthly Town Manager's Report. The Monthly Town Manager's report was discussed and is attached.
- Monthly Financial Report. The Monthly financial report for February was presented and is attached

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.



Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Gene Swearingen in blue ink.

Gene Swearingen, Clerk-Treasurer